[Mr. C. P Kochukunju Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The matter is under correspondence with the Madras Government.

Improvement of Means of Communication in Northern Taluks.

225. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that facilities of communication in the amalgamated taluks of Alangad and Parur are extremely scanty; and

(*b*) whether they will direct the Public Works Department to see that greater facilities for communication are provided in their programme of work this year in the Alwaye Division?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are doing the needful. An additional grant of Rs. 12,250 has already been sanctioned for works in the Alwaye Division during 1099 (*vide* page 469 of the Official Report of the Legislative Council Proceedings, First Session, 1099—Vol. IV.—No. 6).

Timber Sales.

226. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of timber available at present for sale in the several Government depôts;

(*b*) the results of the efforts put forth by the Special Utilisation Officer deputed to find markets for the timber and other forest produce of the State;

(*c*) whether timber is sold to the contractors engaged by the Government to construct buildings, etc.; and

(*d*) whether it is not possible to compel all such contractors to purchase timber from the Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Royalties 1,94,592 c. ft.
Junglewood 1,26,880 c. ft.

(*b*) Owing to extreme dullness in the timber market, the efforts of the Utilisation Officer to find out markets for timber outside the State have not so far proved satisfactory.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Such an order was passed in April 1921. The Chief Engineer has moved for the abrogation of this order. The matter is under examination by the Government.

Recruitment to the Superior Grade.

227. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

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